

EM SSAB CHAIRS
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
February 19, 2013

Participants

<i>Board</i>	<i>Chairs/Representatives</i>	<i>Site Staff</i>
Hanford	Susan Leckband	Kim Ballinger, Sharon Braswell
Idaho		Peggy Hinman
Nevada	Kathleen Bienenstein, Donna Hruska	Kelly Snyder, Barb Ulmer
Northern New Mexico	Carlos Valdez	Menice Santistevan
Oak Ridge	David Martin, David Hemelright	Melyssa Noe, Spencer Gross, Pete Osborne
Paducah	Ralph Young	Buz Smith, Eric Roberts
Portsmouth		Greg Simonton, Julie Galloway, Rick Greene,
Savannah River	Donald Bridges, Harold Simon	Ashley Whitaker

DOE-HQ Representatives

EM-3.2	Catherine Alexander, Melissa Nielson, Michelle Hudson, Elizabeth Schmitt, Alexandra Gilliland, Sayoh Mansaray
EM-31	Doug Tonkay
EM-32	Mark Senderling
EM-60	Terry Tyborowski

Opening Remarks

Ms. Catherine Alexander, Designated Federal Officer for the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), called the meeting to order.

Blue Ribbon Commission Report and DOE Order 435.1 Status Update

Mr. Mark Senderling, Director of the Office of Disposition Planning and Policy (EM-32), discussed DOE's response to the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) Report and then gave a brief status report on the status of DOE Order 435.1.

On January 11, 2013, DOE issued its response to the BRC, *Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste* (Strategy). The response resulted in two major outcomes. The first outcome is that, pending authorization from Congress, the administration will commit to establishing a pilot interim storage facility by 2021, a larger interim storage facility by 2025, and a geologic repository by 2048. The response does not commit the Department to take a stance on either including or excluding the disposition of EM waste in the pilot interim storage facility. Mr. Senderling explained that there is a potential to include EM waste in the 2021 pilot facility's inventory, but at this time the pilot facility would be primarily intended for commercial "stranded" used nuclear fuel (UNF) (UNF at shutdown

reactor sites). DOE will perform further analysis to determine whether EM waste should be included at a later date.

Another point in the Department's Strategy is that the administration supports the BRC's recommendation that a new Management and Disposal Organization (MDO) be created. Both a federal government corporation and an independent government agency are possible alternatives for the MDO. DOE will work with Congress on defining exactly how the organization would take shape. The important detail, as stated in the BRC report, is that the proposed MDO must have adequate authority, funding, accountability, and public credibility.

The DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) is responsible for implementing the Strategy. On January 11, 2013, NE issued a Sources Sought notice for a conceptual design for the interim storage and transportation of used nuclear fuel. The Sources Sought notice and the associated draft Statement of Work are available on FedConnect until removed:

https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/PublicSearch/Public_Opportunities.aspx.

Additionally, NE and the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum were scheduled to hold a webinar with Jeff Williams, Director of the Nuclear Fuel Storage and Transportation Planning Project, on February 19, 2013, to discuss DOE's Strategy. Ms. Alexander noted that her office had not been notified of the webinar, but would follow-up to see what information could be made available to the Chairs.

Mr. Senderling reported that EM and NE continue to collaborate on salt disposal research and development (R&D) activities. The goal is to demonstrate the effectiveness of salt as a repository for heat-generating waste in a generic repository. The studies began halfway through Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 and will continue into FY 2013. Specific activities include: data compilation on salt, thermal/mechanical/hydrologic studies related to salt, modeling studies, international collaboration, and work on instrumentation development. EM continues to evaluate different waste forms that might meet the criteria for a salt repository. Preliminary studies are taking place, with the caveat that future funding is unknown, and there are constraints on the budgets of both NE and EM.

Dr. Don Bridges, Chair of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), asked about what would happen to the high-level waste (HLW) canisters at SRS if EM waste is not included in the planned repository. Mr. Senderling clarified that the issue is whether EM waste will be included in the plans for the interim storage facility; there is no question that EM will utilize a HLW repository if and when it becomes available.

Mr. Senderling concluded his remarks with a quick update on DOE Order 435.1. EM continues to work with the Office of General Counsel on a few last revisions before issuing the updated Order for public comment. EM-32 will work with the EM Office of External Affairs to notify stakeholders when the updated Order is published.

Budget Update

Ms. Terry Tyborowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Program Planning and Budget (EM-60), provided a budget update.

The Congressionally mandated budget sequestration is set to go into effect on March 1, 2013. Federal agencies were asked to prepare impact statements for the across-the-board cuts imposed by sequestration. These statements were provided to the Office of Management Budget (OMB) and congressional committees in early 2013, and have since been made publicly available. The impact to EM would be a 7% cut of the FY 2012 enacted level for EM defense funding appropriations. Sites that receive defense funding would receive a 7% cut from their FY 2012 allocation. Sites that receive money from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Fund and non-defense environmental services funding would receive an across the board cut of about 5.5%. EM-60 is reaching out to the sites to discuss potential needs for reprogramming to ensure that funds are distributed appropriately. Reprogramming requests require OMB and Congressional approval. Whether sequestration will actually go into effect remains unknown, and it is unclear whether the impact statements prepared by the agencies created a significant enough response to deter the proposed cuts.

Mr. Carlos Valdez, Chair of the Northern New Mexico (NNMCAB), asked how sequestration would impact funding for the NNMCAB. Ms. Tyborowski did not know specifically about board impacts, but responded that because Los Alamos is funded by defense money, the site would experience in a 7% cut across its community and regulatory control points. These community and regulatory control points fund a number of activities besides the NNMCAB; therefore, it is up to the site to determine how they will administer the cuts. She suggested that the NNMCAB check with the site for additional information. Ms. Melissa Nielson reiterated that board impacts will vary from site-to-site.

Mr. Valdez asked whether EM was still operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) for FY 2013. Ms. Tyborowski responded that the government's current CR expires on March 27, 2013. There appear to be two possible funding scenarios for the remainder of FY 2013: either Congress will pass a CR for the full year, which will include a 7% cut for defense activities and a 5.5% cut for domestic discretionary spending, or there will be a 7% cut from March 1-27, resulting from sequestration, after which Congress come up with a different budget approach for the rest of the fiscal year.

Ms. Tyborowski reported that the President's FY 2014 budget request, which is normally release in the first week of February, has been delayed while the proposed funding levels are settled with OMB. EM's Senior Advisor, Mr. David Huizenga, is scheduled to testify on March 19 before the House Appropriations Committee. His testimony will likely focus on EM's FY 2013 activities and accomplishments, as the FY 2014 budget may not be publicly available at that time.

Ms. Susan Leckband, Vice Chair of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), asked about the schedule for EM and its sites to involve the public in determining priorities for the FY 2015 budget request. Ms. Tyborowski explained that public involvement in budget development is driven by site management. She encouraged the boards to reach out to site managers as soon as possible, because once the managers begin finalizing their input, the information becomes embargoed. If stakeholders want their priorities known, now is the time to talk to their site, particularly since each site will be examining what they can accomplish in the remainder of FY 2013, as well as in FY 2014 and 2015.

Waste Management Update

Mr. Doug Tonkay, Director of the Office of Disposal Operations (EM-31), provided an update on EM's waste disposition activities.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste

The Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP) is undergoing its annual planned maintenance outage. Disposal operations will resume as early as the week of February 18. Following the outage, highest priority will be given to TRU waste shipments from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Idaho National Laboratory (INL), in order to ensure EM's compliance with regulatory requirements at those sites. LANL will attempt to increase its shipments and bring on additional characterization lines in order to meet the goal of sending 1500 cubic meters of TRU waste to WIPP in 2013. Achievement of this goal will support LANL's 3,706 Project, which removes legacy waste from the surface of the site.

At INL, the Advanced Mixed-Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) is on track to meet its FY 2013 regulatory commitments. An estimated 4500 cubic meters of waste will be processed this year. AMWTP's performance output has increased and workers have started processing sludge waste.

Argonne National Laboratory and SRS both have waste to ship to WIPP, and are shipping as capacity is available. WIPP's schedule is driven by budget, storage capacity, and the number of shipments and receipts that can be made per week. SRS has certified nearly all of its legacy TRU waste for disposition and plans to certify the few remaining waste streams later in the year. Similarly, Argonne continues to package its remote-handled (RH) TRU waste from the Alpha-Gamma Hot Cell Facility Cleanup Project and will send approximately 20 RH TRU shipments to WIPP this year, as the plant's schedule allows.

At Oak Ridge, TRU waste certification operations will resume at the start of 2014, budget permitting, after being diverted to higher priority sites in 2013. In the meantime, Oak Ridge's contractor is continuing to screen the site's contact-handled (CH) and RH TRU inventory in preparation for WIPP's formal screening process in 2014.

EM's biannual TRU Waste Corporate Board meeting was scheduled for April 2-4, 2013, but it has since been postponed until May 14-16, in Aiken, South Carolina. Corporate boards are made up of federal and contractor managers from EM Headquarters and field sites, who meet to discuss complex-wide strategic planning initiatives for waste management. The TRU Waste Corporate Board, which is chaired by the Carlsbad National TRU Waste Program manager, meets to discuss shipment forecasts for WIPP and discuss any issues regarding the certification or packaging of TRU waste. In the past, EM-31 has provided meeting notes to interested stakeholders like those on the EM SSAB.

Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste (LLW and MLLW)

EM sites continue to ship low-level waste to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) for disposal. The FY 2013 forecast of waste for NNSS has been revised upwards from about 900,000 cubic feet to 1.3 million cubic feet, which is similar to last year's forecast. Many of the shipments are planned for the fourth quarter and are being closely monitored and evaluated in

order to maximize disposal capabilities. One third of the FY 2013 LLW/MLLW is forecast to come from Portsmouth's Gaseous Diffusion Plant D&D project.

EM is expected to complete its Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) evaluation for the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank and Melter Feed Hold Tank at West Valley in FY 2013. EM has also performed a WIR analysis for West Valley's Vitrification Melter, with publication of the final determination scheduled for early March 2013. These vessels would be eligible for disposal in a LLW disposal facility at some point in the future.

EM HQ is in the midst of its annual LLW and MLLW forecast data update. Following management review, the data will be uploaded to the Waste Information Management System (WIMS), a publicly accessible online database. EM is tentatively scheduled to complete this update by April 30, 2013. WIMS is located at <http://www.emwims.org/>.

High-Level Waste (HLW)

Reviews of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant's (WTP) "black cells" continue. The reviews are being conducted by a group of technical experts assembled by the Secretary. Also at Hanford, EM has reported that one of the site's underground tanks is leaking. In February, DOE's Office of River Protection confirmed a decrease of liquid in Hanford's single-shell tank T-111.

At the SRS Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), EM and Parsons Corporation are continuing to meet to address the project's cost and schedule growth.

Nearly all needed design modifications for the Idaho Cleanup Project's Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) are complete. Some challenges remain and restart dates are still being determined, but employees are working on getting that facility up and running.

The Tank Waste Corporate Board is scheduled to hold a meeting on March 19-20 in Aiken, South Carolina, to discuss EM's tank waste strategy.

Greater-Than-Class-C (GTCC) LLW

Work continues on the GTCC LLW Environmental Impact Statement (GTCC EIS). The EIS is currently making its way through the DOE HQ review process. A specific date for publication is not yet available.

April Chairs' Meeting

Ms. Leckband provided an overview of plans for the April 2013 EM SSAB Chairs' Meeting. The meeting agenda is under development.

Prior to the public meeting, participants will have an opportunity to participate in a tour of the Hanford site. The HAB has also made arrangements for participants to attend a dinner cruise along the Columbia River at the cost of \$50 per person. Logistics for the dinner cruise, including payment information, are still being finalized.

Local Board Votes on Chairs' Recommendations

Ms. Alexander reviewed the status of the draft recommendations from the October 2012 Chairs' Meeting and asked for the Chairs' guidance on how to proceed with those recommendations that were not unanimously approved by all eight of the local boards.

The recommendations were as follows:

1. *EM should evaluate additional storage and disposal options for legacy waste at WIPP.*
Seven boards approved, the HAB did not approve. Ms. Leckband explained that the HAB member who represents the State of Oregon could not approve because as a matter of their agency's policy, they will not advise another state.
2. *EM should work with other national leaders to separate defense, program, and commercial high-level waste in the disposal process.*
Four boards approved, four did not; HAB, INL CAB, Nevada SSAB (NSSAB), and the NNM CAB did not approve.
3. *EM should maintain funding levels for technology R&D.*
Seven boards approved, the INL CAB did not approve. Ms. Hinman of the INL CAB explained that while the CAB values technology development, it believes that funding must be prioritized to meet regulatory commitments.
4. *EM should place more emphasis and priority on evaluating recycling technology.*
Seven boards approved. The INL CAB did not approve based on the similar reasoning of their response to the proposed technology R&D recommendation.

Dr. Bridges suggested that the Chairs sign and submit the three recommendations where seven boards approved. He suggested that the recommendation that was evenly divided not go forward. The conference call participants concurred.

Ms. Alexander stated that her office would prepare the recommendations to go forward as soon as possible.

Around the Complex

Savannah River Site CAB –Don Bridges

- Given recent budget cuts, the SRS CAB has had to scale back its schedule to include only one off-site meeting per year. In the past years, the board has held off-site meetings up to four times per year.
- SRS CAB members are reaching out and inviting different organizations to discuss their views on site cleanup with the board.

Portsmouth SSAB – Eric Roberts

- EM is in the process of finalizing a number of regulatory decisions over the next 8-12 months that will lay the groundwork for final cleanup of the site. These decisions involve complex integration of multiple concurrent projects.
- The documents associated with the regulatory decisions for the waste disposal options decision have not been made public yet. February 2013 marks a critical point for the site and the community. Once the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency makes their

comments to the draft documents, PORTS SSAB members will be able to see what is actually on paper and start weighing in on the plans for the site, including decisions regarding waste disposition and which buildings will come down.

Paducah CAB – Ralph Young

- Paducah is wrestling with uncertain impacts related to the shutdown of the United States Enrichment Corporation's (USEC) uranium enrichment facilities at the site. Currently, USEC's operations are scheduled to end in May. There is a lot of concern in the community regarding the impacts of the shut down and issues related to reuse and reindustrialization of the site.

Oak Ridge SSAB – David Martin

- The ORSSAB is very focused on budget issues and, specifically, the potential impacts of budget reductions on cleanup, employment at the site, and the ongoing missions at the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
- At the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), K-25's north tower is now down. There are still some contaminated sections in the east end of K-25 that are slowing the pace of D&D. This will postpone the project's end date to mid 2014, putting it off schedule and off budget.
- The ORSSAB is drafting a recommendation regarding legacy waste that is in long-term storage at the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).
- EM and the regulators held a series of workshops to discuss possible strategies for groundwater remediation across ORR. EM retained the services of an independent observer from the US Geological Survey to sit in on the workshop and report information back to the ORSSAB.
- The ORSSAB is developing a condensed version of its mission statement and a vision statement to add to its bylaws.
- The ORSSAB's Public Outreach Committee is preparing to represent the board at the Oak Ridge Earth Day Fair and Secret City Festival. Other recent activities of the Public Outreach Committee include sending out the first quarter edition of the ORSSAB's *Advocate* newsletter, inviting more public officials to board meetings, and updating and maintaining the EM kiosk at the local energy museum.

Northern New Mexico CAB – Carlos Valdez

- The NNM CAB is in the process of reviewing its annual work plan. Members are evaluating what they have accomplished to date and where they should focus their efforts for the remainder of the year.
- The NNM CAB is working on drafting its top issues and challenges for the April Chairs Meeting. Members are considering formulating recommendations on a few of the issues for the Chairs' consideration.

Nevada SSAB – Kathy Bienenstein

- The NSSAB has added four new county liaisons to the board. Additionally, the NSSAB's student liaison project is going well. Members will receive a formal presentation from the student at the May meeting.

- The NSSAB received information on Nye County drilling proposals, but has decided to explore the issues further. Nye County is concerned about water contamination and wants to drill its own wells both on and off the site. However, many NSSAB members do not share the County's concerns.
- DOE's Nevada Site Office is preparing to release the *Final Site-Wide EIS for NNSS and Off-Site Locations in Nevada* in February 2013. The EIS presents an analysis of the potential environmental impacts of continued management and operation of the NNSS.

Idaho National Laboratory EM CAB – Peggy Hinman

- The INL CAB is following the startup process for the IWTU, which should occur in late spring or early summer of this year. The facility will operate for one year to treat the 900,000 gallons of waste that remain at the site.
- At its January meeting, INL CAB members formed a Public Involvement Subcommittee.

Hanford Advisory Board – Susan Leckband

- DOE issued its final Tank Farm Closure and Waste Management EIS in December 2012. The impact of the document is very significant because it will serve as the basis for many upcoming Records of Decision (ROD) at the Hanford site. The HAB invested a lot of time reviewing and commenting on the draft EIS. Several of the board's subcommittees are developing suggestions for public involvement as the RODs begin to come out.
- The HAB is considering whether to cancel its regularly scheduled April meeting because of the delay in availability of EM's FY 2013 budget information. Should the HAB postpone the full board meeting, its subcommittees may still hold their public sessions.
- HAB members are concerned about leaks in underground tanks that are nearing the end of their design life. In what represents a shift in its prior position, the HAB submitted a letter to EM in November recommending that the site construct additional double-shell tank capacity as an interim measure to protect the environment.
- There was recently a discovery of very severe soil contamination under a building undergoing D&D operations. This discovery poses significant concerns because of the building's proximity to the Columbia River, a water source for the City of Richland.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Alexander noted that the upcoming Waste Management Symposium will feature a panel discussion on assessing the effectiveness of the EM SSAB and best practices from the local boards. Following the conference, Ms. Alexander will share the panelists' papers with the EM SSAB Chairs.

Ms. Alexander thanked the participants for their time and adjourned the meeting at 4:18 pm EST.